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Hetton Urban District Council

**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1955



L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Health Department,
Hetton House,
Hetton-le-Hole.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting my Fifteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics for Hetton Urban District herewith which includes the Report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Steady progress was made during the year with demolition of unsanitary properties and building of houses to replace them and also for general needs.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of all members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff which was always so readily granted whenever required.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members,
of Hetton Urban District Council.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector under the Shops Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring and Washington Urban Districts, and Assistant County Medical Officer for Area No. 5.

Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination	Child Welfare and Maternity
Immunisation against	School Medical
Diphtheria	Welfare of the Blind

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—4,527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—18,430 mid 1955.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Books—5,572.

Rateable Value—£74,677.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£440.

Vital Statistics

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1955 was 318 as compared with 310 for 1954.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:—

		Total			}	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.25
		Male	Female			
Live Births	Legitimate	315	167	148	}	
	Illegitimate	3	1	2		

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.0 for 1955.

Still Births—During 1955 there were 10 still births in the district.

		Total			}	giving a Rate of 30.4 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births
		Male	Female			
Still Births	Legitimate	10	7	3	}	
	Illegitimate	—	—	—		

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.54 in the district

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 188 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 109 males and 79 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 10.2 the population being estimated at 18,430. That for England and Wales was 11.7.

In order to compare the death rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.23 giving a death rate for Hetton Urban District of 12.5 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1955 there were 140 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 80 males and 60 females. Of these 2 males and 2 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 78 males and 58 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 31 males and 21 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 188 being 109 males and 79 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1955 7 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 3.7 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

The following table shows:—

1. (a) males, (b) females, (c) total births, (d) rate per 1,000.
2. (a) males, (b) females, (c) total deaths, (d) rate per 1,000.
3. Total increase of population.

Year	BIRTHS				DEATHS				
	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Total Increase
1946	176	189	365	19.24	101	93	194	10.22	171
1947	229	207	436	23.04	120	101	221	11.68	215
1948	172	183	355	19.02	121	86	207	11.09	148
1949	180	158	338	17.95	116	97	213	11.31	125
1950	158	173	331	17.71	137	111	248	13.27	83
1951	147	167	314	17.08	139	117	256	12.84	58
1952	165	138	303	16.53	113	100	213	11.62	90
1953	137	152	289	15.7	114	105	219	11.9	70
1954	167	143	316	21.67	118	110	228	12.3	88
1955	168	150	318	17.25	109	79	188	10.2	130

Deaths in Institutions

Of the 52 residents who died outside the district, 1 died in a private house.

Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	...	...	...	18
General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	17
Children's Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	3
General Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	...	4
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	...	...	...	1
Sunderland Orthopaedic and Accident Hospital	...			1
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	...	2
Thorpe Maternity Hospital, Easington	...	...		1
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	1
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...		1
418, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne			...	1
Leehill Hospital, Lanchester	...	...	...	1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis.

Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) birth from							
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00

Death Rate of Infants under One Year

7 children died during 1955 before attaining the age of one year, being 3 legitimate males, and 4 legitimate females.

During 1954, 14 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1946—1955.

		All Infants per 1,000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births
1946	...	38.35	...	40.34	...	—
1947	...	36.69	...	35.29	...	—
1948	...	50.7	...	46.65	...	90.90
1949	...	35.5	...	36.25	...	166.66
1950	...	48.3	...	50.16	...	—
1951	...	38.22	...	39.09	...	—
1952	...	33.0	...	33.67	...	—
1953	...	24.2	...	25.08	...	—
1954	...	44.3	...	45.16	...	—
1955	...	22.01	...	22.22	...	—

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1954 was 24.9.

For the purpose of these and the following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows:—

Easington Lane	...	...	...	5,529
Hetton	...	...	...	5,031
Hetton Downs	...	...	...	5,769
Rainton and Moorsley	...	...	...	2,101
				<hr/>
				18,430
				<hr/>

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1,000 population is:—

Easington Lane	...	...	...	0.54
Hetton	...	...	...	0.19
Hetton Downs	...	...	...	0.34
Rainton and Moorsley	...	...	...	0.48

Of the 7 infants who died under one year of age the cause of death was in 2 cases due to prematurity, giving a percentage of 28.5 due to this cause. 1 or 14.5 per cent. of the total deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 188. 3.7 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under the age of one year. Of these under one year of age 57.1 per cent. were under one week.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age:—

Nett Live Births—Legitimate				Illegitimate			
		Males	Females			Males	Females
Correct as per Registrar General	{	167	148	...	1	2	= 318
Nett Deaths	...	3	4	...	—	—	= 7

During 1955 there were 157 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners, 11 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 1 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, 13 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest, and 6 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e., Seasonal Incidence; and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total					
Easington Lane	19	...	17	...	11	...	14	...	61	
Hetton	...	22	...	12	...	8	...	13	...	55
Hetton Downs	16	...	18	...	11	...	8	...	53	
Rainton and Moorsley	...	5	...	5	...	7	...	2	...	19
<hr/>										
Totals	...	62	...	52	...	37	...	37	...	188

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1955

Causes of Death					Male		Female
All Causes					109	...	79
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	...	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	...	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	...	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	...	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	...	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	5	...	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	...	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	...	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	16	...	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	...	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	...	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	21	...	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	15	...	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	...	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	6	...	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	...	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	...	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	...	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	...	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	...	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	4	...	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	...	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	...	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	...	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	...	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	...	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	...	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	...	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	...	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	...	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	...	...	—	...	—

Causes of Death

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1955 being equivalent to a death rate per 1,000 population, of .16 from the pulmonary form and .00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1946	13	not available	.68	1	not available	.05
1947	11	.470	.58	3	.079	.15
1948	7	.440	.38	1	.067	.05
1949	5	.403	.27	0	.054	.00
1950	4	.321	.21	1	.043	.05
1951	4	.275	.21	2	.041	.11
1952	7	.212	.38	1	.028	.05
1953	2	.179	.10	1	.022	.05
1954	3	.160	.16	1	.019	.05
1955	3	.131	.16	0	.015	.00

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart Disease being inclusive of Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with Heart Disease, and Other Heart Diseases, accounted for 44 deaths, being 21 males and 23 females. This is equivalent to 23.4 of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 2.3 per 1,000 population.

(c) Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

In addition to the above deaths a further 42 being 21 males and 21 females were due to Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, the majority being due to Cerebral Haemorrhage.

The number of deaths in these two groups has decreased, the two groups accounting for the deaths of 86 persons, being 42 males and 44 females as against a total of 116 persons in 1954.

	Males	Females	Totals
Coronary Disease, Angina	15	10	25
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—
Other Heart Diseases	6	13	19
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	21	21	42
	42	44	86

This is equivalent (taking the groups together) to 45.7 per cent. of the total deaths and a Mortality rate of 4.6 per 1,000 population.

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to VLNS & CDA	Death Rate per 1,000 population All Causes	Death Rate per 1,000 population VLNS & CDA	Percentage Total Deaths due to VLNS & CDA
1951	253	82	12.84	4.46	32.4
1952	213	73	11.62	3.98	34.2
1953	219	83	11.9	4.51	37.9
1954	229	116	12.4	6.2	50.6
1955	188	86	10.2	4.6	46.8

(NOTE.—VLNS: Vascular Lesions of Nervous System; and CDA: Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with Heart Disease, and other Heart Diseases.)

(d) Cancer.

40 deaths—being 25 males and 15 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 21.27 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 2.16 per 1,000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in the Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1946-1955.

Year		Number of Deaths				Mortality Rate per 1,000 pop.	
		Male		Female	Total		
1946	...	13	...	9	...	22	1.15
1947	...	17	...	11	...	28	1.47
1948	...	15	...	19	...	34	1.82
1949	...	26	...	13	...	39	2.07
1950	...	17	...	10	...	27	1.44
1951	...	13	...	14	...	27	1.41
1952	...	17	...	12	...	29	1.58
1953	...	21	...	18	...	39	2.12
1954	...	16	...	23	...	39	2.11
1955	...	25	...	15	...	40	2.16

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the larger clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Locally compiled figures which are arrived at without having all the information which the Registrar possesses are 40 deaths, being 25 males and 15 females.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1955 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site	Males — Ages	Females — Ages
Pharynx	62	71
Breast		68, 71, 79, 64
Stomach	68, 70, 58, 80	73, 76
Bronchus, Lungs ...	53, 54, 64, 74, 56	
Rectum	51, 76, 62, 74	
Uterus		53, 46
Pancreas	65, 63	
Tongue		70
Brain	40	
Prostate	80	
Liver	78	
Mouth	79	
Colon	76, 70, 75	76, 57, 70
Ovaries		72
Spine	64	
Bladder	64	
Oesophagus		25

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Ambulance Facilities

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton-le-Spring, West Rainton and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. Despite minor initial difficulties the Service has worked smoothly. One of the major difficulties has been the gross deterioration of many of the vehicles which the County took over and which from the beginning were unroadworthy and entirely incapable of being made so at anything like a reasonable cost, thus reducing the number available throughout the County considerably below that originally anticipated and throwing more work on those which could be used. A number of new vehicles have been added to the fleet and whilst the number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month, the increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

Vaccination

Since July, 1948, Vaccination has no longer been compulsory and doubtless this has led to a much smaller number of children being vaccinated.

This service is under the control of the County Council and figures available for the year 1955.

Quarter	VACCINATION						REVACCINATION					
	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
1st	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
2nd	4	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	3	3
3rd	6	—	—	—	2	8	—	—	—	—	1	1
4th	14	—	—	—	4	18	—	—	—	—	3	3
Totals	28	—	—	—	8	36	—	—	—	—	7	7

The number as shown amount to a very small proportion of the annual births in the district, and one cannot but view with great anxiety the position which would arise should an epidemic of smallpox occur, a possibility which cannot be overlooked in view of the rapidity and frequency of use of air travel from the East.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This service is also the responsibility of the County Council. Figures are available to show the number of children whose immunisation was reported during 1955 by the doctors performing the treatment.

Quarter	PRIMARY INJECTIONS								RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS							
	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	Total
1st	19	9	1	2	1	3	—	35	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	8
2nd	19	11	2	2	—	—	1	35	—	—	—	—	3	9	2	14
3rd	8	5	—	1	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	5
4th	20	15	2	—	1	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	3	8	—	11
Totals	66	40	5	5	2	3	1	122	—	—	—	—	10	25	3	38

It cannot be sufficiently emphasised that to be efficient in preventing Diphtheria becoming epidemic at least 75 per cent. of the child population under 15 years of age should be immunised. There is no doubt that the general propaganda throughout the country during and since the last war has resulted in a much higher proportion of the children being treated and this has been followed by an immense reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria per year and a corresponding reduction in the deaths therefrom.

Experience has shown the vital importance of re-inforcing immunisation (sometimes called "Booster" doses). If a child is treated between the age of 6-12 months, as all children should be, then it is most desirable that it should have a booster about five years later. It will, indeed, be tragic if parents are lulled into a sense of security because the incidence and seriousness of this disease has diminished during the past ten years and therefore neglect to have their children treated.

I understand that the Local Health Authority (County Council) send birthday card reminders to children when they attain the age of one year but I feel that there is room for much vigorous propaganda, particularly as the proportion of immunised children is so much lower than the desired minimum.

Nursing in the Home

This is now available to all who are in need and the Nurses who served in this area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association have continued in their work.

Maternity and Midwifery

The Nurses formerly employed by the County Council for this work are continuing with same, although, perhaps, more frequently as Maternity nurses than Midwives than formerly, since these services and that of the medical practitioners is now free. It is the intention of the National Health Service Act that there should be local panels of medical practitioners with special experience in midwifery who should do this work.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

As formerly these continue to be administered by the County Council, the centre remaining at Hetton.

School Medical Clinics

These are as formerly under the control of the County Council, the children from Hetton Urban District attending the clinic in Houghton-le-Spring.

Tuberculosis Clinics

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Diseases Clinics

These are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Domestic Helps

Women who are suitable and willing are employed by the County Council as Home Helps who are sent out to give domestic assistance when a request for same is made and proved to be necessary in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged. Charge for this assistance is based on income and, if necessary, may be free. Requests for such assistance may be made to the County Medical Officer either direct or through the local Health Department.

This service has undoubtedly proved to be a great boon to many.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

During the year 1955, some 644 cases of infectious diseases, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows an increase on the figure for 1954—which was 87. There were 509 cases of measles and 106 cases of whooping cough, as compared with 5 measles and 27 whooping cough in 1954.

Scarlet Fever

There were 2 cases of scarlet fever in the district compared with 7 in 1954. Of these 1 was isolated in hospital.

The case incidence for the district is 0.108 per 1,000 population.

No case of puerperal pyrexia was notified.

Diphtheria

There was one case of diphtheria in the district during 1955, as compared with one case in 1954. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Hetton House, Hetton-le-Hole.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.054.

Influenza

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately on the whole of a mild character; no deaths were certified as being due to this cause.

Measles and Whooping Cough

In 1955 there were 509 cases of measles and 106 cases of whooping cough notified as against 5 measles and 27 whooping cough in 1954.

During the year there were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infections have been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose, and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of a rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

Pneumonia and Erysipelas

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed a decrease there being 11 cases notified during 1955 as against 28 in 1954. 1 case of erysipelas was notified in 1955, as against 2 in 1954. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

There were 4 deaths directly due to pneumonia and some in which it was a contributory cause.

Infantile Paralysis

During the year 1955 1 case of infantile paralysis was notified in the area.

School Notification of Disease

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during the year 1955

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1955

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	4
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	509	—	—
Whooping Cough	106	—	—
Para-typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Totals	631	3	4

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1955—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	At Ages—Years												Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	M'sley & R'ton	Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	...	1</

Prevention of Blindness

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1955 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1955

11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 6 males and 5 females and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified or came to notice during the year. In 1954 there were 14 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 7 males and 7 females.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1955 according to sex and wards.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		
	M	F	M	F	Totals
Hetton ...	2	3	...	1	6
Hetton Downs ...	1	2	...	...	3
Easington Lane ...	3	...	1	...	4
Moorsley and Rainton ...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	6	5	1	1	13

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	...	...	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	..			6	5	1	1	3	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1946-55 inclusive.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis							Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis							Total
Year	M		F		Total		M		F		Total	All Forms		
1946	...	12	...	14	...	26	...	4	...	3	...	7	...	33
1947	...	9	...	10	...	19	...	2	...	5	...	7	...	26
1948	...	7	...	9	...	16	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	19
1949	...	10	...	7	...	17	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	19
1950	...	5	...	15	...	20	...	1	...	3	...	4	...	24
1951	...	15	...	10	...	25	...	3	...	—	...	3	...	28
1952	...	7	...	3	...	10	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	13
1953	...	6	...	7	...	13	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	15
1954	...	7	...	7	...	14	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	14
1955	...	6	...	5	...	11	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	13

In Hetton the number of new notifications of cases of tuberculosis is one of the lowest ever recorded in the district. Of the new cases notified only three were under 20 years of age.

Occupation

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 3 were housewives, 1 miner, 1 typist, 1 shop assistant, 3 occupation unknown, and 2 under school age.

It was most satisfactory to know that there were only three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Mass Radiography Unit

The Mass Radiography Unit operated in Hetton from the 30th August to 2nd September, 1955. The total number of persons examined was only 521, 21 cases of non-tubercular abnormalities were discovered and 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which had not been previously discovered.

In view of the great advances in treatment which are still more effective when these cases are diagnosed early, it is impossible to put sufficient emphasis on the importance of this mass radiography service to the public in the prevention of this disease. It is, therefore, greatly to be regretted that approximately only 2.8 per cent. of the people availed themselves of this opportunity for examination and it is to be sincerely hoped that the numbers will steadily increase from year to year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

During the year under review it was found that generally speaking the water supplied throughout the Council's area was satisfactory in both quantity and quality. Late Spring and early Summer of the year saw a prolonged drought which caused no local difficulties but publicity given to the necessity for care in use of water no doubt caused the considerable reduction in consumption during 1955, this being approximately 3,000,000 gallons lower than in the previous year, with a corresponding reduction in the amount of water taken in bulk from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

East and Middle Rainton areas are, of course, supplied direct from the Durham County Water Board and were, therefore, affected by the rationing scheme introduced by the Board. For a time direct supplies to dwelling houses were discontinued and stand-pipes were introduced. The Council, therefore, took steps to advise householders as to how best meet the position and when necessary on the thawing out of stand-pipes.

Samples of water are taken weekly by the Health Department from the Moorsley area which is served by the National Coal Board Supply, East and Middle Rainton which is served by the Durham County Water Board, as before mentioned, and parts of Easington Lane and Hetton which are normally supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The Surveyor's Department also periodically take samples from the Councils own supply which has reservoirs sited at Eppleton and Easington Lane. These samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and in addition samples are taken for chemical examination at approximately three monthly intervals.

The district is therefore served by four waters of widely different characteristics as can best be shown by the table hereunder which gives results of typical chemical analysis from each of the supplies, viz.:—

	Hetton U.D.C.	N.C.B.	Sunderland and South Shields Water Company	Durham County Water Board
	<u>Parts per Million</u>			
Total Solids dried at 180° C.	1,020	738	220	115
Chlorine as chlorides...	56.8	35.5	16.0	14.2
Free ammonia ...	None	Trace	None	None
Albuminoid ammonia .	0.04	None	Trace	None
Nitrogen as nitrates ...	4.00	4.60	Trace	Trace
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.) ...	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.7
Total Hardness ...	553	646	151	94
Permanent Hardness .	283	481	41	69
Temporary Hardness .	270	165	110	25
Lead and Copper ...	None	None	None	None
Iron	None	0.1	0.2	0.2
Appearance and Colour	Clear and almost colourless	Almost colourless and clear	Exceedingly pale yellow and clear	Exceedingly pale yellow and clear
Smell and Taste ...	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.
Microscopical examination of deposit	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.
pH Value	7.3	7.5	7.1	6.9

Samples taken for bacteriological examination are dealt with free of charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland, and the Health Department is indebted to Dr. Crone for his ready co-operation and advice at all times. 156 samples were submitted during 1955, 13 of these being sub-standard. The figures quoted above do not include samples taken by the National Coal Board's Scientific Department from those portions of the supply for which the Board is responsible, or samples taken from the Council's own undertaking by the Water Department, the latter numbering 51. The results were generally satisfactory apart from a period late July to August when some trouble was experienced at the Easington Lane reservoir. The period was very warm and sunny and heavy algae growth occurred at the reservoir, which was by-passed, emptied and thoroughly

cleaned; at the same time chlorination at the source (Eppleton Colliery) was stepped up. Despite the conditions a sample from the reservoir submitted at the time was reported as being of satisfactory organic purity despite the high ammonia content and indicated that the ammonia content made conditions favourable to the rapid multiplication of algae, which would be further enhanced by the warm weather.

A noteworthy point was that during the year bye-laws were made under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, which should do much to mitigate the wastage of water and prove of great assistance in expediting the repair or replacement of defective pipes and fittings.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewers throughout the district with one exception drain to the Council's Glebe Sewage Works at Rainton Bridge. These works, which were built in 1937 and are, therefore, comparatively modern, continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

The housing developments in the area made it necessary to continue the laying of soil and surface water sewers on the housing estates and the routine half yearly treatment of sewage works for the destruction of rats was again carried out during 1955.

During the year it was necessary to serve 15 informal notices requiring the remedy of defects in house drains and these were attended to more or less promptly, it only being necessary in one case to follow up an informal notice with a Statutory notice.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1955 the sanitary conveniences attached to houses in the area of various types were as follows:—

Water Closets	...	...	5,855
Ash Closets	...	...	164
Ash-pit Privies	...	...	17

The ash closets and ash-pit privies now remaining are attached to houses which are either subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders or scheduled to be dealt with in this manner in the near future, conversion of the privy, therefore, being uneconomical. During the year two ash closets were converted to water closets, this work being carried out by private builders, the owner making no application for grant towards the cost.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

As in previous years the work of refuse and salvage collection and disposal was carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Health Department. The plant and personnel engaged in the work comprises four lorries and drivers and eight fillers operating a relay system for the collection of house refuse with an additional lorry and driver employed part-time on the collection of trade refuse and salvage, mainly from business premises, the driver also dealing with the sorting and baling of this. The system followed is for two teams to operate, each comprising two lorries and drivers and four fillers, the drivers also at times assisting in loading. The lorries operate a shuttle service to and from the tip, thus ensuring that the fillers are constantly employed. Without doubt the work of the staff is steadily increasing with the number of new houses which are being erected and the various factors connected with the lay-out of post-war housing sites which create difficulties in refuse removal, generally speaking, making it necessary for bins to be carried increasing distances, and although the staff are equipped with wheel bin carriers, it is frequently not possible to use these owing to the number of steps to be negotiated.

The Department also experienced more difficulty with regard to Council house ashbins than those of private residences. No doubt owing to difficulties of supply, a good number of Council houses were initially equipped with sub-standard size bins which were quite inadequate to hold a seven day supply of refuse. Generally the 24 inch by 18 inch bin is standardised throughout the district, the Council having for many years operated a scheme for the renewal of bins, owners simply being informed when a bin requires replacement, when a good galvanised bin is supplied at considerably below retail price in the shops, the average price of bins being 22/6d., this allowing a small margin of profit to cover handling and administration. The number of bins renewed during the year under the scheme was 79. The nature of the refuse dealt with is, from most parts of the area, very solid and heavy, and although an increasing number of modern fireplaces are being installed it cannot be said that the quantity of ash dealt with has appreciably decreased, in fact, the standard 24 inch by 18 inch bin is, in many cases, hardly adequate for a week's storage of refuse. This particularly applies where concessionary coal, containing a large proportion of stone, is going into a household and the amount of stone to be dealt with, particularly having regard to the fact that it is not in any sense household refuse, creates a problem from time to time.

A modified salvage scheme, dealing only with the collection and disposal of waste paper, was in operation during the year. This work was carried out in conjunction with the collection of trade refuse, a nominal charge being made for the removal of this, and a large and increasing number of tradespeople took advantage of the scheme. The greater proportion of the collection consists of waste paper and cartons which were baled and marketed, and during the period 28 tons 18 cwts 2 qrs. of waste paper were disposed of, providing an income of £252 18s. 3d.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping and owing to the lack of soil for covering, it is not possible to exercise a great amount of control, however, very little nuisance was caused and it was found possible by regular use of a tractor and scraper to consolidate and level the refuse. The tips in use are situated at Bull Wells, Hetton Downs, this having now been completely reclaimed and tipping only proceeding in restricted areas at the request of the farmer, and at the Hazard Colliery, where a fair amount of tipping life still remains.

The great need was for a tip to serve the Easington Lane area and protracted negotiations took place to obtain an extensive site in a disused quarry at Snippersgate but unfortunately without success. We were, however, fortunate in obtaining a smaller site in a quarry at Elemore Woods and this site is likely to serve the needs of the Easington Lane area for some time, and has been extremely useful in reducing the lengthy leads which were necessary from this part of the area to the Hazard Colliery. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable tipping sites sufficiently remote from houses, and this is likely to become a problem in the future.

A great nuisance is caused on the tips by the indiscriminate dumping of loads of brick rubbish, etc., by builders and contractors who invariably select the first available spot anywhere on the finished surface, more often than not providing an obstruction to the further use of the tipping face until levelling has been carried out. The number of premises which were dealt with by the Scavenging service was 6,123 the approximate cost per house being £1.53.

Housing

Good progress was made with the implementation of the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme, the four Clearance Areas which were confirmed in Shaws Row, John Street, and Richard Street towards the end of 1954 were dealt with in the early part of the year, good progress being made with the clearance of the area. Following these areas five Compulsory Purchase Areas which formed a comprehensive clearance in High Street, Easington Lane, were put forward and subsequently confirmed at the Public Enquiry and here again it is the intention of the Council, when clearance is effected, to redevelop on the cleared sites. A good number of isolated houses were dealt with by the making of Individual Orders, an increasing number of these being made subject to Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, to ensure that so far as possible the amenities of adjoining houses were not seriously affected.

The Council's building programme was again carried out with Direct Labour, very satisfactory progress being made during 1955, as 75 houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year, and an additional number were in an advanced stage of construction. Private individuals building houses for their own occupation provided 7 houses during the same period and a number of others were in hand or projected. In this respect the Council gives every assistance and encouragement to the prospective owner-occupier and a number took advantage of the financial assistance available under

the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, actually 24 advances to persons who were either building new houses or purchasing existing houses were made during the year.

A good number of applications for assistance under the Improvement Grants Scheme were also dealt with. Although the grant provides some encouragement to the private landlord to improve his property, unfortunately the majority of owners have failed to take advantage of this and applications are almost invariably from owner-occupiers who desire to improve the amenities and accommodation of their houses. Consideration was given and grants made towards the improvement of 9 houses during the year.

The Council themselves made good progress with their scheme to modernise the older type of Council house, this affecting the majority of houses in the pre-war schemes, the work mainly consisting of the removal of the obsolete and uneconomical type of kitchen range, also the obstructive and inefficient clothes boiler, a modern fireplace, electric cooker, and electric boiler being substituted. Unfortunately this work is always subject to some delay owing to the failure of the existing electric networks to carry the load imposed by the new appliances and sections are further delayed until the necessary modifications to the mains have been carried out. The older sites have been considerably improved also by the removal of dilapidated fencing and the substitution of dwarf brick walls, this, in many cases making it possible to reduce the size of the large corner gardens, grass plots and flower beds having been laid down which are maintained by the Council's staff, effecting an immense improvement in the appearance of the sites.

The following are particulars of the number and type of houses provided by the Council in the pre-war and post-war periods.

Estate	A1	A2	A3	A4	B3	Total
Broomhill	100	30	—	—	—	130
Eppleton	—	10	22	2	—	34
Hetton	—	135	180	—	—	315
Peat Carr	—	167	57	—	—	238
Easington Lane (Old Site)	—	29	154	—	36	219
Prospect	20	63	25	9	—	107
East Rainton	4	160	61	5	—	230
Moorsley	12	—	—	—	—	12
Springwell Terrace ...	—	24	12	—	—	36
	136	618	511	30	36	1,331

1. Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1955.

New Houses Completed during year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	75	—	75
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By Private persons	—	6	6

Total number of Inhabited Houses ... 5,603

2. Closing and Demolition of Houses

A.—Formal Action.

- | | |
|---|----|
| (i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action | 30 |
| (ii) No. of houses <i>closed</i> but not demolished as a result of formal action | 5 |
| (iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed... | 84 |
| (iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation. (Housing, Repairs, and Rents Act, 1954, Part 1.)... | — |

(B.—Informal Action.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ... | — |
|---|---|

3. Reconditioning and Repair

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) As a result of informal action | 38 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice | 7 |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners | 1 |

4. Improvement Grants: Housing Act, 1949

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| | No. of Separate Houses |
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority | 12 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority | 1 |
| (c) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme | 44 |

5. List of By-Laws adopted or revoked during year

Date	Title
26.8.55 ...	Byelaws made under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945.

GENERAL SUMMARY

	No. of Inspections	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Formal Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Housing:					
Public Health and					
Housing Acts ...	291	118	7	103	
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	
Defective ...	56	14	—	14	
Drainage ...	51	15	1	15	
Water Supply ...	9	2	1	2	
Food Premises ...	306	3	—	3	
Shops Act ...	81	2	—	2	
Dairies ...	—	—	—	—	
Slaughter Houses:					
Public ...	—	—	—	—	
Private ...	60	3	—	3	
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—	
Factories and					
Workplaces ...	73	10	—	9	
Keeping of Animals ...	12	1	—	1	
Insanitary Ashpits and					
Receptacles ...	—	—	—	—	
Offensive Accumulations ...	5	2	—	2	
Smoke Nuisances ...	15	1	—	1	
Prevention of Damage					
by Pests Acts, 1949	153	6	—	6	
Totals ...	1,112	177	9	161	

Ashpit-privies converted into water-closet ...	—
Ash-closets converted into water-closets ...	2
Total number of water-closets in district ...	5,855
Total number of ash-closets in district ...	160
Total number of ashpit-privies in district ...	17

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing Statistics for the Year 1955

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	291
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	476
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	93
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	186
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	104

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	38
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	23
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936; and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1953:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	13
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	2

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	28
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	59
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	206
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	29
(d)	Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	—

Houses completed between the end of the War and the 31st December, 1955.

Estate	A1	A2	A3	A4	Sp. 6 B.R.	Total
Caroline Street ...	—	10	—	—	—	10
Pemberton and Richard Streets ...	16	—	—	—	—	16
Peat Carr	—	54	70	2	—	126
The Lawns, Eas. Lane Prospect	24	—	—	—	—	24
Moorsley	—	58	96	8	—	162
Moorsley	18	32	56	4	—	110
Moorsley (55 Houses)	12	34	9	—	—	55
Low Downs	—	36	36	4	—	76
Gargles Farm Estate	58	124	80	6	1	269
Brickgarth	24	58	31	—	—	113
Murton Lane	4	6	—	—	—	10
Mill Terrace	—	2	—	—	—	2
	156	414	378	24	1	973

Site	A1	A2	A3	Total
Gargles	12	2	—	14
Brickgarth	4	1	—	5
Moorsley (55 Houses) .	12	34	8	54
Mill Terrace	—	2	—	2
	28	39	8	75

Houses built by Private Enterprise between the end of the war and December, 1955, number 28.

Overcrowding does not present any great difficulty in the area; in point of fact, true overcrowding, that is, conditions caused by the natural increase of the tenant's family, is uncommon; the majority of cases being created by sub-tenants, often members of the tenant's family who have married and brought a partner into the house. Following their practice for some years the letting of houses has been governed by the Council's Points Scheme, which favours the applicant who is living as a sub-tenant and has a bedroom deficiency and this resulted in a good number of overcrowded conditions being abated during the year. The position is further helped by the Council's policy of giving a good measure of consideration to the housing of aged persons, as in almost every case the provision of a small type house releases a larger house for family use, and also provides the aged couple with adequate accommodation at a rental within their means; and of a type and size easily worked.

The Shops Act

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Shops Acts, and regular routine inspections of all shop premises were carried out during the year. There were no infringements detected of the Orders governing the closing hours and no complaints were received regarding the working hours of assistants. It is generally found that nowadays shopkeepers observe even shorter hours than those prescribed. The larger shops all have satisfactory sanitary accommodation, rest room and washing facilities for their staff; food shops having of necessity been provided with a constant supply of hot water. The majority of the shops comprise small general businesses with a house, occupied by the proprietor, attached; and more often than not only one assistant employed, and no difficulty is experienced with regard to sanitary accommodation and other amenities for the welfare of the employees. Four small lock-up shops in the area are so constructed that it is impossible to provide sanitary conveniences on the premises. Fortunately, however, public conveniences are reasonably accessible and Exemption Certificates are in force with respect to the shops concerned.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites

There are no recognised camping sites in the area, and during the year under review there were no temporary structures of this nature occupied for dwelling purposes. Periodical difficulties arise

owing to the incursion of itinerant hawkers, who, whilst passing through the area, create a little trouble during their short sojourn, and although powers in dealing with them are rather restricted, it has generally been found possible to keep the district free from encampments of this kind.

There are also two sites within the area which are periodically used by showmen as fairgrounds, and whilst they are occupied for this purpose they are kept under supervision to ensure that satisfactory arrangements have been made with regard to water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse disposal. No difficulty is experienced with regard to these, and the sites, when vacated, were always left tidy.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There is, unfortunately, no swimming bath or pool in the district, although there is a definite demand for such an amenity, which, owing to the vagaries of the climatic conditions, should be preferably under cover. Schemes for the construction of a pool have been mooted from time to time, but there seems little likelihood of a pool being provided in the near future.

Schools

The schools throughout the district are maintained with a high standard of hygiene and it was not necessary during the year to close any school owing to the prevalence of infectious disease. The Health Department is indebted to the teachers for their co-operation at all times when enquiries regarding infectious diseases or other matters affecting the welfare of the children had to be made.

Public Houses, Halls and Cinemas

All premises of this kind are periodically inspected; the Council having powers for enforcing reasonable standards under the appropriate Act, and in the majority of cases certificates are issued regarding sanitary conditions found for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions, therefore an adverse certificate would automatically create a difficulty in obtaining the renewal of the licence.

The general standard of hygiene maintained throughout the area is now very high, but improvements to sanitary accommodation are still being carried out in connection with reconstruction work. Almost without exception public houses in the area are now well equipped with regard to washing facilities in the bars.

Food Inspection

The Inspectors continued to examine animals slaughtered for human consumption in the slaughterhouses, and despite the fact that there were 15 slaughterhouses to supervise it was possible to examine every animal. Whilst the inspection of food animals has necessitated a considerable amount of additional work for the staff of the Department, the change has been welcomed, as it can be said that the resumption of private slaughtering brought about a marked

improvement in the quality of the meat sold in the area, and there have no losses from bone taint or similar conditions as was common when meat was transported before setting properly, often in very unsatisfactory vehicles

A good amount of work was done to the slaughterhouses before their licences were granted and conditions are generally very satisfactory. It is, in fact, doubtful whether centralised slaughtering within the area would bring about any improvement in hygienic conditions, although it would certainly ease the problem of inspection as labour shortages cause some butchers to slaughter at very irregular hours, and slaughtering at weekends is prevalent, thus imposing a good amount of overtime upon the Inspectors. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the requisite notice of slaughter from butchers, no doubt due to the fact that the Council took a strong stand with regard to this, one prosecution for failing to give notice of slaughter was undertaken and several butchers were formally warned. There is still a shortage of trained slaughtermen, as during the war years many butchers' assistants, who would no doubt have acquired the trade, were unable to get training, but fortunately the majority of butchers now appear to have been able to find suitable staff. It has been the policy of the Council for some years to continue the issue of slaughtermen's licences and there were, therefore, a pool of licensed men available at the end of the year, the number holding licences was 52.

By pre-war standards the incidence of diseases amongst animals inspected is not unduly heavy, this may largely be ascribed to the fact that, on the whole, animals are slaughtered at a rather earlier age. Owing to the demand of housewives for lean meat farmers and breeders are generally putting forward stock for slaughter, which in earlier days would normally have been kept for some months longer. All carcasses or edible organs which are condemned are treated with a strong green dye and disposed of to a firm of By-Product Manufacturers who undertake to guarantee that the meat is not used for human consumption. A fair sum is realised from the salvage value of the meat disposed of in this way, the whole of the money so obtained being retained by the Council, the butcher being compensated by his Insurance Company.

The number and type of animals slaughtered and examined during the year under review were as follows:—

Beef	...	...	...	1,840
Mutton	...	...	...	2,949
Pork	...	...	...	1,779

Particulars of the meat it was found necessary to condemn is as under:—

The entire carcasses and organs of 6 cattle, the forequarters and organs of 3 cattle, the entire carcasses and organs of 2 pigs, and edible organs and small parts to a total weight of 4 tons 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 5½ lbs.

All food shops in the area are regularly inspected and their stocks of tinned goods examined. It was necessary on occasions to condemn fairly large quantities of tinned goods as unfit for human consumption. Condemned tinned goods, which are generally in a very offensive state, and have no salvage value, are collected and disposed of on the refuse tips. Particulars of food stuffs condemned are as follows:—

1 x 15 lb. 7 oz. tin, 1 x 14 lb. 10 oz. tin, 1 x 14 lb. 9 oz. tin, 1 x 14 lb. tin, 1 x 13 lb. 13 oz. tin, 1 x 13 lb. 11 oz. tin, 1 x 13 lb. 9 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 15 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 12 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 8 oz. tin, 1 x 12 lb. 6 oz. tin, 1 x 11 lb. 10 oz. tin, 1 x 11 lb. 8 oz. tin, 1 x 9 lb. 8 oz. tin, 1 x 8 lb. tin, 1 x 5 lb. 14 oz. tin, 1 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tin, Cooked Ham. 1 x 6½ lb. tin, 28 x 6 lb. tins, 37 x 12 oz. tins, and 4 x 6 oz. tins, Tongue. 21 x 6 lb. tins, 14 x 340 gm. tins, and 81 x 12 oz. tins, Corned Beef. 6 x 6 lb. tins, Jellied Veal. 6 x 4 lb. tins, 1 x 3 lb. tin, 11 x 2 lb. tins, 37 x 12 oz. tins, and 7 x 7 oz. tins, Pork Luncheon Meat. 1 x 7 oz. tin, Ham Luncheon Meat. 6 x 12 oz. tins, Chopped Ham. 1 x 2 lb. tin, Danish Pork. 50 x 1 lb. tin, Stewed Steak. 17 x 15½ oz. tins, 7 x 8 oz. tins, and 1 x 7½ oz. tin, Stewed Steak. 58 x 12 oz. tins, Minced Beef Loaf. 2 x 16 oz. tins, Beef Steak. 39 x 9½ oz. tins, Meat Roll. 9 x 7 oz. tins, "Daniemeat." 9 x 1 lb. tins, Steak and Kidney Pudding. 1 x 1 lb. tin, Steak Pudding. 6 x 16 oz. tins, Scotch Broth. 9 x 10 oz. tins, Scotch Broth. 9 x 16 oz. tins, Vegetable Soup. 5 x 15 oz. tins, 1 x 10½ oz. tin, Mushroom Soup. 70 x 10oz. tins Tomato Soup. 104 x 16 oz. tins Baked Beans. 72 x 15½ oz. tins, 20 x 8 oz. tins, 17 x 7½ oz. tins Baked Beans. 6 x 15½ oz. tins Butter Beans. 83 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins, 17 x 15½ oz. tins, 18 x 13½ oz. tins, 8 x 10 oz. tins, 7 x 8 oz. tins, 5 x 7¾ oz. tins, and 3 x 5 oz. tins Peas. 320 x 2 lb. 3 oz. tins, 1 x 2 lb. 2 oz. tin, 1 x 1 lb. 2 oz. tin, 25 x 15 oz. tins, 520 x 14 oz. tins, 106 x 8 oz. tins, 3 x 7 oz. tins, and 1 x 6 oz. tins Tomatoes. 1 x 1 lb. 2½ oz. tin Carrots. 3 x 1 lb. 2½ oz. tins, 5 x 8 oz. tins, 9 x 7¾ oz. tins, 3 x 16 oz. jars, and 4 x 6 oz. jars Salmon. 5 x 14 oz. tins, and 2 x 3¼ oz. tins Herrings. 31 x 1 lb. 13 oz., 21 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins, 31 x 1 lb. tins, 25 x 15½ oz. tins Pears. 2 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins, and 5 x 1 lb. tins Pineapple Slices. 10 x 1 lb. tins Pineapple Cubes. 12 x 15 oz. Pineapple. 14 x 12 oz. tins Pineapple Cubes. 30 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins, 2 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tins, 54 x 16 oz. tins, 1 x 15½ oz. tin, and 1 x 15 oz. tin Peaches. 40 x 11 oz. tins Oranges. 12 x 16 oz. tins Cherries. 3 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins Grapefruit. 17 x 14½ oz. tins Green-gages. 3 x 1 lb. 3½ oz. tins, 1 x 16 oz. tin, 3 x 10 oz. tins Raspberries. 5 x 1 lb. 14 oz. tins, 10 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tins, 17 x 1 lb. tins Apricots. 12 x 1 lb. 14 oz. tins, 11 x 16 oz. tins, and 7 x 6 oz. tins Prunes. 1 x 15 oz. tin Figs. 18 x 15 oz. tins Strawberries. 88 x 2 pt. size tins, 5 x 1½ pt. size tins, 9 x 1¾ pt. size tins, and 71 x ¾ pt. size tins Full Cream Unsweetened Milk. 18 x 2 pt. size tins Full Cream Evaporated Milk. 22 x 1½ pt. size tins Skimmed Milk. 1 x 16 oz. tin Condensed Milk. 1 x 14½ oz. tin Apple Pudding. 1 x 1 lb. 8 oz. tin Pineapple Jelly. 1 x 1 lb. jar Strawberry Jam. 1 lb. Cheese. 6 x 4½ oz. pkts. Cheese Spread. 2 boxes Fish Cakes, and 78 Eggs.

Premises where food is sold or prepared are regularly inspected. The following table showing the number and type of premises of this nature in the district.

School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteens	...	...	...	...	2
Cafes or Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	4
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers	...	...	...	...	17
Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	10
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	17
Grocery	...	...	...	...	30
General	...	...	...	...	31
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	3
Premises selling pre-packed Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	46

Milk and Dairies

The liquid milk distributed in the area has been for some years in the hands of two organisations, namely, The East Durham Co-operative Dairies Ltd., who function through the local Co-operative Societies, and deal only in Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised milk; and The Houghton Dairymen's Association, who had a small pasteurisation plant at their Houghton-le-Spring depot, but who now market milk pasteurised by the Milk Marketing Board, and also retail a good quantity of Raw Tuberculin Tested milk. These two organisations also retail a certain amount of bottled sterilised milk and bottled orange juice. There appears to be quite a demand for sterilised milk nowadays, resulting in an increasing number of small shopkeepers stocking it; 38 being registered for this purpose.

The Co-operative Dairies operated from a modern milk depot which is equipped with cold storage chambers and is situated in the Hetton Downs Ward, bottled milk being stored here overnight before delivery. They have a subsidiary depot at Easington Lane and although this is not equipped for cold storage it is well maintained and provides reasonably satisfactory accommodation.

All milk retailed is sampled weekly by the Department; samples taken from the roundsmen being submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Sunderland where examinations are carried out free of charge, and as such samples are taken for advisory purposes only, no prosecutions were undertaken with regard to the results, although, in fact, none were necessary. During the year under review 275 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, 22 of these proving to be in some degree unsatisfactory. A sample of dried milk which was suspected to be the cause of illness was submitted for examination for the organisms of salmonella and the dysentery group, but proved to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream

There are only three manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban area; one carrying on business at East Rainton and two operating in the Easington Lane area. All were equipped with plant capable of producing a product to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations, and were inspected at regular intervals.

A large number of general shops and confectioners have installed refrigerator cabinets from which they retail pre-packed ice cream, and these premises, which number 46, are also registered and regularly inspected. The ice cream which they sell is supplied by large wholesale manufacturers, and it has been found in the majority of cases that consistently satisfactory results were obtained from samples taken. A new wholesaler, however, began operations in the district during the year and samples taken of his products showed a disquieting state of affairs, the result being that of 40 samples of ice cream submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination, 33 proved to be unsatisfactory, and of 24 samples of ice cream lollies (these being made of frozen ice cream and not the normal frozen fruit juice lolly), 21 proved to be unsatisfactory. The Health Authorities of the district where this ice cream was manufactured were informed of the position and a protracted investigation followed before satisfactory results were attained. It is only fair to state that the manufacturers did everything possible to put matters right, their Scientific Advisor having frequent consultations with the Health Department, but they were themselves perturbed and puzzled at the unsatisfactory results obtained.

Despite the prolonged fine weather during the summer it may be said that the hawking of ice cream from motor vans, etc., has declined, probably due to the competition from local shopkeepers. This decline is welcomed as the Health Department has, of course, no knowledge of, or control over the manufacture of ice cream retailed in this manner, and it is extremely difficult to obtain samples at times convenient for immediate transmission to the laboratory, therefore to exercise a really satisfactory control over these hawkers is a matter of impossibility.

Factories and Workshops

These premises are regularly inspected and it is found, generally speaking, that a good standard of hygiene was maintained during the year. It was necessary to serve some notices resulting in improvements being carried out with regard to closet accommodation, floor drainage, ventilation and cleansing, and provision of means of escape in case of fire. The following table gives particulars of inspections carried out by the Department and the results thereof.

Bakehouses

At the end of 1955, six bakehouses were operating in the area, the majority only to a minor extent, principally for the production of confectionery and pies. In addition the occupier of one general shop without full baking facilities is registered for the manufacture of pies only. The premises are periodically inspected and generally the standard of cleanliness maintained is highly satisfactory. During the year much attention was given to the improvement of washing facilities in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	8	17	9	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	45	63	34	—
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	3	6	—	—
Total ...	56	86	43	—

2. Defects found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	17	17	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	2	2	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	8	7	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):				
Insufficient ...	4	3	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	10	10	1	—
Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	43	41	1	—

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin

During 1955 it was necessary to take action for the eradication of bed bugs and other vermin in the undermentioned premises:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	27
Private Houses	...	...	...	17

In addition seven lots of infectious bedding were treated or destroyed, and it was also necessary to disinfect two houses after infectious diseases. The figures quoted represent an appreciable drop on those applicable in recent years and in the majority of cases the vermin to be dealt with was beetles. Nevertheless, in one or two isolated cases quite serious infestation by bed bugs was found and remedied.

It is found that beetles are successfully eradicated with a powder made up of Pyrethrum for immediate action, and D.D.T. which remains effective for some time and provides a lengthy protection. The results are generally very satisfactory, although they depend greatly upon the tenant whose co-operation is essential if complete clearance is to be maintained.

The treatment of bed bug infestation is a more difficult problem, whilst they have become increasingly rare in recent years it is occasionally disturbing to find that infestations coming to the notice of the Department were obviously of lengthy standing, and had been tolerated by the occupiers. The infestation is dealt with initially by fumigation (generally Gammexane), this effectively killing adult vermin on the surface, particularly when the weather is warm, and makes the premises reasonably safe for workmen or householders to proceed with the stripping of wallpaper, etc. This is insisted upon in every case, it also being necessary at times to remove the architraves, skirtings and other wood work, the latter being treated by thorough flaming with a blow lamp. The second treatment is given by spraying to deal with vermin which have subsequently incubated, followed by a final treatment to ensure complete clearance. Tenants are asked to keep the walls stripped at least six months after treatment as the interest of the occupier is essential in dealing with or reporting isolated vermin subsequently found, and stray survivors can recommence the whole cycle of infestation. In severe cases it is also found necessary to inspect the adjoining houses; effective fumigation being very prone to cause the vermin to migrate.

Rodent Control

The Health Department administers the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as surface infestation is concerned, that is, they deal with infestation in dwelling houses, business premises, agricultural land and refuse tips; the Highways Department being responsible for the treatment of sewers.

During the year under review it was necessary to investigate 66 complaints of rat and mouse infestation, and in some cases extensive work had to be carried out before satisfactory clearance was achieved. The operations are carried out free of charge in dwelling houses, a charge being made for the treatment of business premises or agricultural land, and a large proportion of the cost of

the work is reimbursed by Government grant subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture. The actual cost of the service is negligible, the majority of the work being carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, with a part-time workman operating under their supervision.

The Council's own property, refuse tips, etc., are systematically surveyed at regular intervals and treated when necessary, the cost of this work being met by the local authority.

The main poison bait used during the year was based on Warfarin, which is comparatively safe to use and has proved highly effective, particularly where mice are involved, and furthermore, the vermin do not seem to develop a prejudice against the poison which was evident where zinc phosphide, red squills and arsenic were used. On refuse tips and open sites it is possible to carry out gassing with "Cymag" gas, when weather conditions made this safe.

The Council is covered by insurance against any claim arising in respect of rodent control work, but despite the dangerous nature of some of the poisons used although this policy has been in existence for some years—it has never been necessary to meet any claim.

Atmospheric Pollution

Although considerable time was again devoted to this during 1955, no observations were taken, these having been discontinued in July, 1954, on the ground of economy. The principal factors governing atmospheric conditions in the area are, of course, colliery spoil heaps, there being three active heaps, situated at Elemore Colliery, Eppleton Colliery and Nicholson's Pit, East Rainton, all of which are kept under close observation, and it is pleasing to note that there have been considerable improvements in the conditions found. The heaps at Elemore Colliery and Nicholson's Pit have an adequate supply of water available and more or less constant spraying is in operation. The new heap which was established at Eppleton Colliery is an excellent example of modern tipping, the waste being spread in shallow layers, bull-dozed and covered with soil, and no nuisance whatsoever arises from this.

A source of nuisance at Elemore Colliery arises from the dry-cleaner here, which periodically gives rise to serious complaint regarding dust nuisance. While everything possible has been done to abate this, it appears virtually impossible to operate this type of cleaner without some nuisance from dust. The furnace chimney at this colliery also emits a considerable amount of grit at times, deposits in the immediate vicinity being heavy. It is felt that the nuisance is due to the type of fuel used and inefficient stoking, and the provision of a grit arrester has been suggested. It appears, however, that there is some hope that this colliery will be electrified, in which case the whole problem should be solved.

During the year the Department was again much indebted to Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who made regular inspections of the heaps in company with the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The help and useful technical advice which he gave has proved of great assistance to the Council in dealing with local problems of this nature.

Marine Store Dealers

There are only two marine store dealers registered in the district and their premises are regularly inspected, but give rise to little nuisance. It has been necessary from time to time to require cleaning and tidying up to be carried out, and in one case complaints were received regarding fumes from waste rubber which was being burnt, and this practice was stopped.

Itinerant rag and bone dealers, who almost invariably come from outside the area, are also kept under observation, particularly with a view to detecting any offence in respect of the exchanging of forbidden articles for rags, etc., particularly to juveniles.

Care of the Aged

As has been the case for some years now, considerable time is devoted to the welfare of the aged people in the area. The Hetton Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee was established under the auspices of the Council who have five representatives on the Central Committee, and this Committee supervises the welfare of the aged people in the district. Five Ward Committees, all of whom are represented on the Central Committee, carry out the work in their respective Wards. The Committee is entirely self-supporting and dependent upon funds raised by collections, donations and the organisation of whist drives, dances, etc. Quite a considerable amount of money is raised in this way and put to good use by the voluntary workers, who do excellent work in visiting, overlooking the welfare and providing entertainment for the old people.

The old people have their own clubs which are self-supporting and operated by the members themselves, and attendance at their entertainments is steadily increasing, and does from time to time grow beyond the capacity of the available halls, making it necessary for prospective club members to go on a waiting list, the applicants being absorbed as soon as possible.

Whilst it is true that a good part of the Committee's work is devoted to the organisation of recreation and entertainment, their main function is the welfare of the aged, and the many old people who, because of disinclination or infirmity, do not enjoy the activities of the clubs, are regularly visited and assisted in any way found necessary; being taken flowers, Lucozade, etc., when sick, and when the regular seasonal outings or celebrations take place those who are unable to attend and therefore miss the gifts or entertainment are visited and their gifts presented to them.

The Committee has devoted considerable time and thought to providing useful entertainment by the promotion of an interest in handicrafts amongst the old people, and the interest stimulated was so great that it has been possible to organise quite large exhibitions of work done by members, the quality of some of the work shown being really superb.

The Committee has also had in being for some years a scheme for dealing with old people's foot troubles, treatment being carried out for a very nominal charge. In fact, any aged person requiring treatment but unable to afford the very small fee can be treated at the expense of the Committee, as they were fortunate in being able to enlist the services of two local chiropodists who are, if the patient is unable to visit their surgeries, willing to visit the home to carry out treatment there.

